A.—The reduction was made, not by dismissing members of the force but by leaving unfilled vacancies as they occurred and so far as is known no constables were deprived of their livelihood in consequence.

There was no reduction in Madras city. That in the mufassal amounted to 2,287 men in 1922. Figures for 1923 are not available.

Candidates for secondary grade training.

894 *Q.*—Mr. A. T. Palmer : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the candidates selected for secondary grade training are of low standard ; and

(*b*) whether it will not be possible in the interests of education to raise their standard ?

A.—No. Ordinarily principals and inspecting officers select such candidates as possess secondary school-leaving certificates showing a satisfactory school record and marks at the public examination or the public examination after moderation not below the Presidency average.

Mr. A. T. Palmer :—" May I know if the answer given is with reference to (*a*) or (*b*) or both, Sir ? "

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. Venkatareddi Nayudu :—" It seems to me an answer to the whole question, Sir."

Mr. A. T. Palmer :—" I take it that it is an answer to (*b*) also. Am I also to understand, Sir, that the names of these candidates need not appear on the eligibility list ? "

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. Venkatareddi Nayudu :—" I must have notice of that question, Sir."

Mr. A. T. Palmer :—" I say this because the alteration is not effected for boys whose names do not appear."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. Venkatareddi Nayudu :—" It will be kept in view, Sir, and answered in the next question that my friend may give notice of."

Indian Christian voters' list.

895 *Q.*—Mr. A. T. Palmer : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the last elections many Indian Christians were included in the non-Christian voters' lists, sometimes against their protests ?

A.—The Government have no information. They are further not aware of any protests having been made.

Mr. A. T. Palmer :—" I request Government to get information, because I know there are many cases where the Christians requested the people who were responsible for making this list to enter their names there. They were refused."